

Message Text

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ORIGIN DLOS-04

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 FEA-01 ACDA-07 AGR-05 AID-05

CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00

DOT-00 EB-07 EPA-01 ERDA-05 FMC-01 TRSE-00 H-02

INR-07 INT-05 IO-13 JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

NSF-01 OES-06 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-04 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAL-01 /120 R

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EA/PRC- MR. SMITH

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R 240839Z APR 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USLO PEKING

S E C R E T STATE 099795

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PLOS

SUBJECT: SIMILARITY OF US-PRC INTERESTS IN LOS

REFS: (A) PEKING 00442; (B) STATE 54588

1. GOPRC VIEWS LOS PRIMARILY AS A STRUGGLE BETWEEN THE DEVELOPED AND DEVELOPING NATIONS. EARLY ON, THE PRC GAVE UNRESERVED SUPPORT TO LDC POSITIONS, PARTICULARLY WITH RESPECT TO THE RIGHT OF THE COASTAL STATE TO MAKE UNILATERAL, UNLIMITED CLAIMS TO COASTAL WATERS. LATER, PRC MODIFIED ITS VIEWS, APPARENTLY IN RECOGNITION OF THE NECESSITY TO DEAL REALISTICALLY IN THE INTERNATIONAL FORUM.

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2. LOS IS NOT OF MUCH CONSEQUENCE TO THE PRC. MATTERS OF

PRACTICAL INTEREST TO THE PRC WILL MOST LIKELY BE DEALT WITH ON A BILATERAL BASIS (IF RESOLVED AT ALL) SUCH AS THE TERRITORIAL DISPUTES IN THE SOUTH CHINA SEA.

3. PRC RADICALLY DISAGREES WITH USG ON MOST LOS ISSUES. USG CAN FIND SOME COMMON GROUNDS WITH THE PRC ON THE FOLLOWING ISSUES: (A) TERRITORIAL SEA LIMITS: EVEN THOUGH THE PRC HAS PROCLAIMED THE RIGHT OF A COASTAL STATE TO ESTABLISH ITS OWN LIMITS TO THE TERRITORIAL SEA,

THEY APPEAR AMENABLE TO THE ESTABLISHMENT INTERNATIONALLY OF A 12 MILE TERRITORIAL SEA. (B) CONTINENTAL SHELF: THERE IS SOME DISAGREEMENT WITH THE PRC IN THE CONCEPT OF THE RIGHTS OF THE COASTAL STATE IN THE SUPERJACENT WATERS OF THE CONTINENTAL SHELF, BUT THE PRC AND THE USG ARE IN AGREEMENT IN BELIEVING THAT THE COASTAL STATE HAS A RIGHT TO THE RESOURCES OF THE CONTINENTAL SHELF TO AN INTERNATIONALLY DETERMINED LIMIT. (C) RIGHTS OF LANDLOCKED STATES: BOTH THE PRC AND THE USG SUPPORT THE RIGHT OF LANDLOCKED STATES TO TRANSIT COASTAL STATES FOR ACCESS TO THE OCEANS. SISCO

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LAW OF THE SEA, TERRITORIAL WATERS, POLICIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 APR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: izenbei0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE099795
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: PLSMITH:AFR
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760156-0744
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760425/aaaaavbf.tel
Line Count: 82
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN DLOS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 PEKING 442, 76 STATE 54588
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: izenbei0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 MAY 2004 by ElyME>; APPROVED <20 SEP 2004 by izenbei0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SIMILARITY OF US-PRC INTERESTS IN LOS
TAGS: PLOS, CH, US
To: PEKING
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006